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CUBA.—Half the Island is covered with forest comprising many precious woods and much valuable ship timber. Some of this portion is mountainous and of little present value. But with the extension of railways, and the modifications of Customs' restrictions, the natural growth is likely to become valuable for exchange in foreign traffic; and when the forest is subdued, the highlands will afford pleasant and healthful retreats from the burning heats and fatal fevers of the coast. At one point the range exceeds a height of seven hundred feet. The summit commands a view of the sea in all directions. The mountains of Hayti are visible from it to the East; and Southern, in the dim distance, the blue Hills of Jamaica are discerned, rising still more loftily from their seemingly wave-washed base. Bold and precipitous crags alternate with gentle slopes that invite to occupation equally by their sightlessness and salubrity.

Of the untimbered lowland, more than half remains in a state of nature—its verdant surface here and there relieved with the stately palm, the flowering aloe and the oleander, or the wild orange tree, at once fragrant with the fresh blossoms and glowing with the matured golden fruit. Two-fifths of it only are cultivated; but even that extent of tillage, yielded in 1854—besides the home supply of sugar, coffee, tobacco, fruits, &c., an aggregate produce for export amounting in value to thirty-two millions, seven hundred thousand dollars, and exceeding the imports in the sum of one million three hundred thousand dollars.

The white population of Cuba is about six hundred thousand; the blacks nearly, if not quite a million. The Island yields a revenue of \$13,000,000; only one-half of which is required for support of the local administration, leaving between six and seven millions for annual remittance to Spain. There exists no parallel instance of like liberal recompence for protection extended to colonists remote from the seat of empire. The foreign commerce of the colony is larger than that of the parent country. In 1818 commercial freedom was proclaimed, the direct trade having been previously limited to a few Spanish ports; and though the boom was subsequently sought to be revoked, and at intervals was heavily encumbered by accumulative taxation, in twenty-two years the exports of the Island were quadrupled. Cuba is much more largely engaged in trade with the United States than with Spain. Its imports from Spain in 1854 were \$9,054,000, and \$7,867,000 from the U. States; but its exports to this country, the same year, are valued at \$11,641,000, while only \$3,615,000 were sent to Spain. A more liberal tariff would greatly expand the trade with the United States. The consumption of American flour in Cuba is especially limited by the burdensome tax of nine and a half dollars a barrel when imported in American bottoms. In 1851 the exports to the United States reached \$13,222,000, having increased threelfold within a period of ten years; but the trade would seem now to be rather declining. Presently may Spain point to the prosperity of Cuba—the ships that crowd her harbors, the wealth accumulated on her soil, the revenue accruing from her commerce—to confute those who condemn her colonial policy, and contend that her right to sovereignty over the Island is forfeited by the abuses she perpetrates in exercising it.

The United States is interested chiefly to procure a relaxation of the commercial restrictions that depress the trade of Cuba and check the development of her resources. Acquisition of the soil would tend to aggravate the acrimony of a dangerous sectional excitement at home, which it is the true policy of this government to allay. In time of war with either of the great maritime powers, the ownership of the Island would impose upon us the costly and difficult task of its protection, and expose it to the hazard of conquest by an enemy. These evils seem indeed to be inherent in the possession of Cuba by the United States, even with the voluntary consent of Spain. If acquired by force, besides encountering these dangers, we should inevitably incur the temporary sacrifice of a profitable trade, and might chance to receive the troublesome appanage of a colony of emancipated blacks claiming the equal privileges of freedom. Spain attaches little value to the maintenance of slavery on the Island. Her laws now existing require only to be executed to relieve from serfdom a very large portion of the laborers held in bondage. The importation of Africans since 1820 has been effected in defiance of a solemn Treaty, for entering into which Spain received a large pecuniary indemnity from Great Britain. Nevertheless, during the last thirty-five years, the importation has scarcely fallen short of an average of six or seven thousand a year. Then there are numerous apprentices long since entitled to their freedom, but held in slavery, consisting of Africans rescued from slave ships and carried into Cuban ports by British cruisers. These Spain is bound by Treaty to make free after an apprenticeship of three years, during which they are expected to acquire the habit of labor, and learn how to gain an honest living. Altogether, the number of blacks thus entitled to freedom pursuant to treaty stipulations, may be reasonably estimated to exceed 300,000. A faithful execution of the Spanish laws, would increase the free colored population to formidable magnitude, and possibly would give it a numerical preponderance over the whites. It is, however, how easy of execution would be the project of "Africanizing" Cuba, which the Spanish government is said to have in contemplation in case a general arming of the blacks shall be deemed necessary to protect the Colony from a predatory invasion.

It is the insecurity of the slave property in Cuba,—the right of the master to the service

of a large portion of the laborers resting upon the sufferance of the government, rather than upon the permanent foundation of legal title,—that has prevented the large Creole proprietors of Cuba from participating in, or even countenancing, the project's of invasion that have heretofore resulted so disastrously for want of support from the domestic population.

Possibly the Creoles fear the consequences of a successful invasion, because conscious of their inability to compete with the more energetic race who seek to stimulate them to insurrection by offers of assistance and support.

But there is enough to deter them from embarking in such schemes, in the prospects of their doubtful issue, and in the certainty that the instantaneous success of a revolutionary demonstration can alone save their property from certain temporary desolation, and prevent a long suspension, if not a final forfeiture, of the princely revenues accruing from its cultivation. A protracted struggle would paralyze Cuban industry during its continuance, and inflict upon the United States the loss of a profitable and growing branch of commerce. While the government of Cuba is so administered as not to endanger our security, this country asks only of Spain a liberal commercial policy, which would insure as profitably to Spanish revenue as to the general interests of trade. And a wise colonial administration, lenient to its own subjects and conciliatory to strangers, would contribute a security against domestic disaffection and foreign capidity, that the terror of forts, fleets and armaments, and of cruel punishments, is powerless to afford—a source of confidence which the frowning bastions of the Moro and the Principe, the commanding squadrons of Spain, England and France, the tortures of the "Tacon," and the life-taking Garrote, and in vain relied on to insure.

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5,000 NEW Cigars, for sale by JOHN E. GILBERT, Mitchell's Block Main St.

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